

**Intro:** Today we continue with our study of 2 Cor, as we look at the second half of the topic on Giving:  
Last week we talked about Principles for Giving, today we want to continue by looking at some Promises for Giving

Promises For Giving: 2 Cor 9:6-15 Pg 820

- ❖ Church in Jerusalem was struggling financially (*famine, persecution by being ostracized, overpopulation in general*)
- ❖ Paul was challenging the Gentile churches to help (Cuba: Container Project)
- ❖ This effort had been going on for a couple years
- ❖ Paul had talked to them about it before...they wanted to...things got off track...now he's coming back to them
- ❖ He takes this opportunity to teach them...and us...about giving!

The Promise:

HOW You Give...Determines WHAT You Get...and How USEFUL You Can Be In Kingdom Work!

Now, one disclaimer before we start to unpack this statement. While the specific interpretation of this passage is about finances, it is clear that Paul is talking about a principle that supersedes finances. This is true in EVERY area of spiritual life.

Time Talent Treasure Gospel

*This is a principle that holds true for all of those things, not just finances...though that is what Paul is writing about*

HOW You Give....

Vs 6-9

Notice carefully what I said. I said HOW you give...not WHAT you give! Again, as I said last week:

- Amount is nothing
- Attitude is everything

In these few verses Paul describes 5 different possible attitudes we can have toward giving.

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| 1. Sparingly: Lit = <i>to be stingy, to hold back or to hold onto</i>        | <u>Illus:</u> Scrooge McDuck                 |
| 2. Reluctantly: Lit = <i>to be sad, to be heavy, to be sorrowful</i>         | <u>Illus:</u> Write the check and cry!       |
| 3. Compulsion: Lit = <i>to be pushed, or to be squeezed, arm twisted!</i>    | <u>Illus:</u> Some think of giving that way! |
| 4. Generously: Lit = <i>to be bountiful, to overflow, to have more</i>       | <u>Illus:</u> Give like Jen's first bday!    |
| 5. Cheerfully: Lit = <i>hilarious, full of joy or laughter, merry, happy</i> | <u>Illus:</u> Giving with happy heart!       |

Talking with someone last week...said, word for cheerful is hilarious (from word)

Someone is going to laugh...Don't want it to be God! (Are you SERIOUS!!!!) Is THAT your response?

**KEY:** YOU have to make the decision about what you are going to give. Notice what Paul writes in vs 7.

Each man should give what he has decided in his own heart. Lit = *to choose for oneself, or to choose beforehand.*

No one should ever tell you what you can or should give. That is entirely between you and the Lord

**But:** While God gives us the ability to make our own choice...He reserves the CONSEQUENCES of that choice to Himself!

We are free to choose how we give and what we give. That is our choice. God gave us that:

Consequences of the choices we make...How He chooses to respond to what we do...THAT is entirely up to God!

And He says: HOW We Give...(ATTITUDE)...Determines WHAT We Get...

I want you to notice something as we start to talk about the getting part. Only one of them is negative! The first!

In fact, what Paul describes for us is overwhelmingly positive! Look at what he writes.

1. If we Sow Sparingly: Lit = *to be stingy, to hold back or to hold onto*  
Then we REAP sparingly! Lit = If we give to God with a closed hand...then He returns to us same way!  
That is true of our Time: That is true of our Talents: That is true of our Treasure!

- If God is an afterthought in your life...spend time with Him, serve Him...only after everything else
- If God gets the leftovers of your talents...if sports...and hobbies...other activities get your best
- If you give God a financial tip...instead of a real gift...then don't be surprised that you get little in return!  
If we SOW sparingly...then we are going to reap sparingly...There is no surprise there!

All of the rest of what Paul writes to us is positive...because He Assumes we are going to give correctly  
Literally it says, God is POWERFUL enough (ABLE) He has the power to do whatever He wants

2. If We Sow Generously: Then the ALL Train Kicks In Gear! (3 different words...5 different ways!!!)
- All grace abounds: God's grace is "abounding" See God's grace unfold in your life (Time/Talent/Treasure)
  - In all things: Lit in every area of your life: See it in your family, your work, your finances (*Not always in kind*)
  - At all Times: Lit = *Every + When!* Don't you love that...WHENEVER you are in need!
  - All you need: Lit = *to be sufficient, to have enough, to be content!* (notice, not WANTS...NEEDS) (Not Maserati)
  - All good works: Lit = In every *manner*, in every *way*, in every *kind* of good work!

3. We Will Have More To Be Generous With! Vs 10

This is a spiritual principle Jesus taught us! Luke 16:10-13 (Trust with Worldly/Spiritual) (Trust with others/own!)

You have to decide WHO you are going to serve. The one who has that SETTLED...God comes first...can be trusted w much

If we are faithful and generous with what God gives us:  
Then He says that He will do three specific things in our lives

- Supply us: Lit = *Furnish, contribute, add to what you have* You got it all from Him in the first place!!
- Increase us: Lit = *Multiply, increase, make to be larger* Faithful/Generous = More to work with
- Enlarge us: Lit = *Grow, cause to get larger, bigger or more!* Righteousness will increase: Right things  
Faithful=More service, Ministry, Blessing

**KEY: WHEN WE FAITHFULLY USE WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN US, HE SUPPLIES MORE SO WE CAN SERVE BETTER!**

### **3. HOW We Give...Determines WHAT We Get...And How USEFUL We Are In Kingdom Work! Vs 12-15**

Vs 12 This Service Lit = *Uses the words for SERVANT = PRIEST, meaning this "priestly ministry of service"*

When we are giving to God...whether it be Time, Talent or Treasure, we are acting as a Priest...Go between God and Man!  
We are acting as the Servant of God...on His behalf, making sure that His will, His purposes, His goals are accomplished.

When that happens...Paul Says 4 things are true

- Supplies the needs of God's people: Illus: Story of Wealthy Businessman praying for missionaries needs  
*After prayer was done son looked up and said, If I had your checkbook I could answer your prayer!*
- Overflowing expression of thanks to God: When you are serving in this way...No one is confused...Glory goes to God  
When the gift from the Gentile churches arrives...Jerusalem glorify God  
Look at what God has done! (Friday received message abt Cuba Pastors)
- Demonstrates your faith is real:  
*Obedience that accompanies your confession*  
Lit = Your words are backed up by your actions!  
We say it all the time...Words are cheap. Back up what you say with action  
When we do that...everyone sees what we are saying is real  
"Put your money where your mouth is!"  
True of Time, Invest in what is important
- People pray for you to continue!  
Praying for your ministry...For you blessing...For you continuance  
When I ended up in the hospital in Cuba...  
I think on the way in...Wheeling me into their version of "operating room"  
"Don't worry...put the word out...Over 100 Churches praying for you!"  
That was not WHY I serve in Cuba...but it's an awesome benefit!

**KEY: When you are faithful to use what God has given you in ministry...He will give you more...and you will become increasingly useful for the kingdom. You see, God is looking for faithful men and women to entrust His work to!**

We say...give me something to work with God...and I'll do great things! Absolutely backwards!  
God says...Work with you you have...use THAT...and when you have been faithful THERE...  
I will give you more!

**CONCL:** 3 Questions:

1. How are you giving? Sparingly? Reluctantly? Compelled? Generously? Cheerfully?  
Not just about finances: Yesterday, BEAUTIFUL SATURDAY...about a dozen men showed up to do back lot mulch  
Don't be surprised when they receive God's blessing...I believe He will multiply their time...  
Can't outgive God!
2. Is the "All Train" running in your life? "All Grace, All Things, All Time, All you need, All good works..."  
Or is the empty train running? If the empty train is running...Go back..Look...How are you giving?  
Giving Him your time? Devotions, Study, Worship? Talents, All going elsewhere? Sowing financially?
3. Are you becoming more and more useful in Kingdom work?  
Is God opening doors of opportunity for you to do more for Him? To have a greater impact? Make more of a difference?  
If you are being faithful He is

If you aren't...then its never too late to start!  
Come ask God...where do you want me to begin?  
How can I give time.....How can I give talent....How can I give Treasure....

Then do it...let your obedience match your words....and then wait for the harvest...It's on the way